

## Church News.

ADDITIONAL.

### MD., VA., AND W. VA. CONFERENCE.

We have just closed one of the best of all the State Conferences that I have attended since I have come among the Brethren.

It convened on the evening of the 19, and closed on yesterday evening. The churches were fairly represented, and the spirit was most excellent. The town of Maurertown where it was held is noted among the Brethren of Virginia as the original fountain from whence has flowed the steady, broadening, widening, deepening stream of Progressive Tunkerism that is fertilizing and making happy the hundreds of loyal hearts who have sought a home in its ample fold. The tide of progress is bearing down opposing elements and bids fair by God's grace to spread through the valleys of Maryland and Virginia, until all who seek the doctrines of the Bible as they were interpreted by Alex. Mach and his seven compeers, will find them in our fold.

The percentage of increase, as it was shown by the parochial reports, was in excess of twenty-five per cent. and the prospects for the future in all the fields of ministerial activity, assure us that, for years to come, we can maintain the same rate.

Let us maintain, with unflinching vigor and tenacity, the doctrines that so easily distinguish our organization from others, and God will pour on us greater blessings than we can contain. We will gain nothing, but lose everything, by conceding the saving properties of doctrines not taught in the scriptures, or of God's acceptance of a service in which his plainest commands are ignored.

Let us keep in the middle of the road.

It was a great joy to us to meet our fellow-laborers of the district with whom we have heretofore had such sweet converse and association.

The Maryland contingent, led by our mercurial young soldier—no, Z. H. Copp, pastor of the Hagerstown church, and T. J. Pharney, than whom no others merit higher encomium for valorous services done on a hundred fields of righteous warfare, and Dr. O. M. Richard whose calloused hand marks the constant presence of the sword that has hewn down multitudes of the Lord's enemies, and others whose hearts are full of love and zeal for the cause of the great captain.

Roanoke, the southern point of active interest in the district, was in evidence on the list of visitors, in the persons of Ed-

ward and his faithful conferee, sister Mary Nininger, elder C. Nininger of Hollins, old timers, who have carried the Progressive flag on many a field of conflict, and your humble scribe who is least among the soldiers, and not worthy of being called a soldier, because he persecuted the Brethren. But God has forgiven him because he did it in unbelief.

Others of the younger members of the Fathers's family composed our delegation.

Bethlehem, of Rockingham Co., and Dayton, the latest born of the Virginia churches, sent her valorous captain Elder Jos. I. Hall and her sweet singers, Jacob Hall and his amiable sisters and I. M. Bowman. What exalted stations among the choristers of heaven will these singers among the saints of earth attain if they continue faithful unto the end.

Newmarket, of Rockingham Co., sent her full grown babe, brother Simon Fogle, to sit among the counsellors, supported by a half a score of the brightest and best of the fathers children.

While the anthems of praise for her late natal triumph are yet resounding among the domes and corridors of heaven, she reached out, in the strength of full grown womanhood, and grasped the prize of the Conference of 1897.

With those dear, loving saints will we all meet when the bugler calls the counsellors together in 1897. May our Lord preserve us all for that meeting. To those who know elder E. B. Shaver, the patriarch of all the Virginia churches, and the pastor of the Maurertown church, it is useless to say that he was there. He was simply here, there and everywhere by a large majority, and his ubiquitous spirit animated every department of the Conference. It is inspiring to be in the magnetic presence of this war-worn champion of successful battle and hear him recount the history of the early strugglers of progression for a place in the great army of God's warriors. What multitudes will he meet in the coming "Crowing Day" who will be there through his instrumentality. Long may God spare him for future work. Elders George A. Copp, Wm. Spiggle, T. W. Wisman and George Rinker were three and too full of love for utterance, but they did utter words of counsel full of weight and wisdom.

We need not say that unestimated Virginia hospitality was given to the visitors. The rich products of this famed "Valley of the Shenandoah" were literally laid at our feet and we were commanded to arise slay and eat. We return our hearts to them full of thanks. They were so glad for our coming, and they were so kind and loving and untiring in their devotion

to our comfort, that like erring Absalom they simply "stole our hearts."

The statistical business of the meeting was a decided improvement on former Conferences. Heretofore our Conference work was more of a ministerial character. In the various lines of denominational work we have heretofore been irregular and unsystematic. This is happily changing for the better, and future Conferences will show great improvement. We seem to grow slowly in these matters.

In the year 1887 I spent a month in this country under the auspices of the G. B. organization. Sister Anna B. Richard, one of the converts of those meetings, who is our hostess at this writing, has thrown off the man-forged fetters of misnamed conservatism and is happy in the freedom that our Savior purchased for us. "They whom the truth makes free are free indeed." Those who were profuse in expression of fraternal regard then, with few exceptions, have no hand to offer in courteous greeting now, nor word of welcome to their homes and altars nor hope for fellowship in the home beyond. Oh how shallow and turbid were the streams of earthly, human friendship, unsanctified by God's grace!

May our Father keep all the dear children unto the great gathering on the farther shore. D. C. MOOMAW.

### CLOVER CREEK, PA.

Our communion at New Enterprise is now among the things of the past. It certainly was an enjoyable season. Three were added to the church on Sunday, which added to the encouraging features of the meeting, as did an unusual rallying of the membership around the Lord's table. Brother Furry, of Martinsburg, was with us and gave us some valuable and much appreciated assistance. Brother Furry delivered during our preparatory service the most powerful exhortation we have listened to for many a day, and like the disciples of Emmaus our hearts burned within us. The phrase in my last correspondence "The brethren of New Enterprise have sent in their apportionment" etc., should read, The brethren of *New Enterprise and Fredricksburg*. Communion at Fredricksburg will be held on June 14. Come and help us.

E. H. SMITH.

### FROM LANARK, ILL.

During the absence of Brother and Sister Livengood on a visit to her parents in Southern Ill., our pulpit was ably filled by Sister Gibbons of Milledgeville. She is an earnest worker for Christ and her sermons show a careful and prayerful study of the blessed Gospel. May he abundantly bless her and give her strength to carry on the work of saving souls. Two more baptized last week. Our communion was largely attended by our own members and also by the brethren and sisters of Milledgeville. Brother Talley was with us and we had an enjoyable feast.

B. F. PUTERBAUGH.